

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 22, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer
Absent: Clouette

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2006 meeting. Motion so passed.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2006 special meeting. Motion so passed with Ms. Koehn abstaining.

Ms. Koehn requested that Mayor Paterson's remarks be added to the minutes of the May 9, 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of our troops currently serving here and abroad.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. An Ordinance Regulating Cats

Cynara Stites, 122 Hanks Hill Road, commented that the proposed ordinance is long overdue and will cut down on the feral and abandoned cat population.

Jodi Frank, 709 Mansfield City Road, spoke in favor of the ordinance commenting that she has had cats left on her doorstep.

Kay McNab, 795 Warrenville Road, volunteers at the animal shelter and expressed her amazement at the number of diseased and abandoned cats in town.

Noranne Nielson, Mansfield Animal Control Officer, has been working on the problem for her entire seven years of employment and it seems to be getting worse. Last year 183 cats were adopted from the shelter. There are 12 states and 22 cities that have such ordinance, but none in Connecticut. Ms. Nielsen stated that Mansfield already has an active dog program, visiting 800 homes, so to check on cats too would not be much more difficult. In response to questions Ms. Nielsen stated that it is her intention to use the infraction clause as a last resort. Citizens will not be fined if they are making an effort to rectify the situation.

Joan Lamont, 102 Hillcrest Drive, of C.A.T.S. Northeast urged passage of the ordinance. In her experience she has heard four main excuses for not spaying/neutering their cats: expense, "not my cat", "want to have my children experience birth" and "nobody can tell me what to do with my pets."

Nancy Wengel, 10A Sycamore Drive, spoke in support of the ordinance noting that it will encourage cat owner responsibility.

Elizabeth Norfolk, 784 Warrentown Road, has been trapping feral cats for the last 30 years. She stated that cats are not self-sufficient and suffer in the wild.

Angela Hence, 17 Old Wood Road, volunteers at the shelter and urged support of the ordinance.

Mayor Paterson noted that she is the proud owner of an adopted cat.

The hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

-

2. An Ordinance Regulating Cats

Mr. Hawkins moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adopt An Ordinance Regulating Cats, as amended by staff in its draft dated May 22, 2006, and which ordinance shall become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Motion so passed.

3. Management Letter Comments and Audit Adjustments for Year Ended June 30, 2005

Mr. Schaefer reported that the Finance Committee met with the Finance Director and the Committee is in support of the motion. He noted that some of the changes have already been implemented and others will be at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Jeff Smith, Finance Director, stated that he would go over this list with the auditors to make sure all issues have been addressed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Redding seconded, effective May 22, 2006, to accept the Management Letter Comments and Audit Adjustments for the Year Ended June 30, 2005.

Motion so passed.

4. Fenton River

Martin Berliner, Town Manager, relayed that he has heard that OPM will soon be approving the Fenton River Study. UConn has made some improvements to the well fields already and is planning to install in-stream measuring devices that will measure the level of the water in real time.

5. Campus/Community Relations

- VII. NEW BUSINESS

- 6. Town Manager Recruitment – Personnel Search Committee

The Mayor requested that Peter Curry, Consultant for the search, join the Council at the table. Mr. Curry updated the Council on the search and presented the Community Profile and Position Profile for comments. After incorporating the comments of the Council Mr. Curry will send the document to applicants.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Redding seconded, effective May 22, 2006 that for the purpose of conducting the search for a new Town Manager, a committee of the Council consisting of its entire membership is hereby created. Such committee shall constitute a personnel search committee under the terms of Section 1-200 of the Connecticut General Statutes

Motion so passed.

7. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2006

Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, discussed the report stating that the latest estimates are that the town will be approximately \$300,000 over budget for the fiscal year. He outlined the plan to deal with the deficit noting that most of the overage is related to energy cost, and the State Police contract. The over expenditures of the Board of Education are also in energy cost and in Special Education expenses.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective May 22, 2006, to accept the town's financial statements dated March 31, 2006.

Motion so passed.

8. Safe Roads to School Plan for Goodwin School District

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective May 22, 2006, to approve the Safe Roads to School Plan for the Goodwin School District.

Motion so passed.

9. FY 06-07 School Readiness Grant

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, resolved, effective May 22, 2006, to authorize Martin H Berliner, Town Manager, to submit an application to the Connecticut Department of Education seeking \$107,000 in school readiness funding, and to execute any related grant documents and materials.

Motion so passed.

- VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS- IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Ms. Blair reported that she attended the Safety Kid's Fair and it was very enjoyable. Ms. Koehn staffed the Green Energy Team's booth and came away with additional ideas on how to better present the program.

Mr. Paulhus attended the public hearing of the Charter Revision Commission. Ms. Koehn and Mayor Paterson were also in attendance.

Mr. Hawkins attended the special meeting of the Mansfield Volunteer Fire Company. He reported that another hurdle has been crossed. Both volunteer companies have voted to transfer their assets to a successor organization.

- XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Martin Berliner reported on a series of meetings regarding the concept of solar energy farms on school roofs. The idea originated with a number of E.O. Smith teachers. The energy could then be sold to the energy grid.

Mansfield will be receiving a grant to convert from electric heat to fossil fuel heat. The application has a June 30th deadline and will come before the Board of Education on the 9th and the Town Council on the 12th. A local match will be identified by then, probably through the CNR fund.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will have a public hearing on June 5th on 4 separate applications for the 1A Building.

The Emergency Management Team will meet May 24th. At this meeting the transfer of certifications from the fire companies to the new department in charge of negotiating the new fire service agreements and the agreements for the transfer of assets is scheduled.

A Class D survey is being done for the UConn property under consideration for the assisted/independent living development. The town will then get an appraisal as will the University. Negotiations can then begin.

Mayor Paterson asked the Personnel Committee to begin the Manager's evaluation.

- XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Parking Ordinance and Communications are scheduled for June 12th.

Technology presentation is scheduled for June 26th.

UConn Master Plan is tentatively scheduled for June 12th.

- XIII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 10.CCM re: Adopted State Budget for FY 06-07

11.CCM re: Legislative Recap, 2006

12.S. Chaine re: Memorial Day Parade

13.T. Condon "Mansfield Gets Serious About Character"

14.CT Coalition for Justice in Education Funding re: Regional Information Meeting

15.Planning Commissioners Journal

16.UConn Police Reaccreditation

17.UConn Students Living On-Campus at Storrs, 1985-2006 Revised

18.Willimantic River Review

- XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Blair moved and M. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Motion so passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk